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An unending variety of topics

Sunday, August 12, 2007

Ten ways to make a political difference

Ten ways to be an effective political activist, in a roughly decreasing order of importance:

1. Be prepared to vote with your feet. Add interstate and international diversity to your social networks -- both personal and business. Lower your costs of exiting, if the need should arise, the jurisdictions that impose on the territories wherein you reside. Repeatedly in history -- from the old American frontier to the fall of the Berlin Wall to modern jurisdictions that specialize in international trade -- low exit costs have not only enabled liberty for the individual and the small group, but they have more than any other factor motivated the larger jurisdiction to provide the most important rights and freedoms for those who stay put. Grow interpolitical roots so that no single polity can chop down your tree. The good news is that modern communications, travel, and standardization of international languages (mostly on English) have made diversifying our social networks -- growing international roots -- far easier than ever before in history.

2. Influence our law in action. Serve on a jury and insist on protecting those who have not been proven to harm or intend to harm another.

3. Make your own law. For starters draft your own contracts, wills, prenuptial agreements, and property deeds. Even better if you can do this as a service for other people, but for that you will generally need to be a member of the appropriate legal guild. To draft law usefully, whether for yourself or others, you will need to learn the real law they don't normally teach in public schools: contracts, property, trusts and estates, and torts for starters, or else (often a second best choice to learning law yourself) retain the services of a sympathetic lawyer. Learn actual law -- don't turn into a whacko running around putting liens on other people's property based on interpretations of the UCC quite remote from what any judge would contemplate. But do start to make your own law. You cannot be free if you cannot make your own law.

4. Influence our law in action. Donate to or get involved with the Institute for Justice and other organizations of politically and legally

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About Me

Nick Szabo

"A premier thinker about history, law and economics, and the lessons they have for security." -- Adam Shostack, Emergent Chaos

"Szabo comes out with these essays that leave me in awe." -- Brian Dunbar

"Reading material that is eclectic, challenging and endlessly fascinating." -- Sean McGrath, Propylon

"Like most blogs worth my attention, this blog is updated only infrequently. That is because the authors of blogs worth my attention only post when they have something to say that is true, relevant and not already known by their audience. Most of the human race does not have the skill to know when an idea has these three properties. The skill is particularly rare in the fields of politics and economics, which is why this blog is such a rare and valuable thing." -- Richard Hollerith

View my complete profile

savvy people defending our most important rights and freedoms in the courts.

5. Make your own law: use strong security to protect the people, relationships, property, and data you value. Learn to defend yourself and your loved ones with weaponry. Write and use cryptography, smart contracts, bit gold, digital cash, and other security protocols made possible by computer science.

6. Tell us about your good research and good ideas: write a blog, comment on a blog, write papers.

7. Start a multinational small business.

8. Vote with your pocketbook -- buy and sell the goods, services, stocks and bonds that promote liberty, and boycott those that promote its violation.

9. Get involved in a lobbying group or political campaign where you can make a difference: usually a local campaign, but on rare occasions a national one.

10. Vote for and against politicians, but don't be fooled -- of all these ten ways to make a political difference, voting in a political election makes the *least* difference.

Posted by Nick Szabo at 2:10 PM

5 comments:

Daniel A. Nagy said...

1. Check

2. Check

3. Check

4. Not yet

5. Check, check, check

6. Check

7. Check

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8. Check

9. Check

10. I never vote in elections as a matter of principle.

10:50 AM

nick said...

Tremendous! As they say to veterans, thank you for your service.

5:43 PM

Pelle said...

I'm with Daniel, I've done all except donate to IJ.

I guess it could go under 5, but launching disruptive services and product are also effective.

I wrote about this in the trouble with libertarians, where I argue we should worry less about the political process and more about changing the world ourselves.

1:47 PM

nick said...

Pelle, thank you, too, for your service.

1:36 PM

Anonymous said...

Is there a way you can go against a corrupt goverment and not go against the law? We all at some point live under pitiful nut jobs who target the most vulnerable and create massive divides. Im one who Is tired.

11:59 AM

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